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EDITORIALS

Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board, and occasionally by guest editorial writers at the invitation of the Editor, and opinions expressed are those of the writers.

Jacinto Convit, M.D.

President, International Leprosy Association

At its quinquennial congress, held in London in September 1968, The International Leprosy Association elected Dr. Jacinto Convit as its president. He will thus hold office in the coming five years of expected significant advances in the understanding in the many problem areas involving leprosy. This is also the quinquennial just preceding the centennial of Dr. Hansen's recognition of the etiologic agent which induces this disease.

The membership chose well when it made this selection. Dr. Convit's experience is broad and straddles both the pre-sulfone past and the present as well as reaching out into the future through active participation in research. His research interests cover a broad range, to which the pages of this journal have borne frequent witness with studies on epidemiology, BCG prophylaxis, lepromatous myositis, the methylene blue test as a diagnostic aid, and extended studies in the experimental inoculation of laboratory animals with leprosy bacilli.

As Director of the Division of Sanitary Dermatology, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Caracas, Venezuela, he has car-



DR. JACINTO CONVIT

ried large responsibility for the progressive and enlightened leprosy control program by which Venezuela sets a high standard for other areas troubled with the same problem. In formulating and developing this program Dr. Convit has cooperated with leading interested agencies such as the Pan American Health Organization American Leprosy Missions, Inc., the International Society for Rehabilitation of the

Disabled, the World Rehabilitation Fund, and many others. In these cooperative efforts he reveals the broad range of his associations and interests while at the same time enriching also the experiences of those so associated with him.

As he takes office Dr. Convit has ex-

pressed the hope that The Association will function as a truly international society with a unifying *esprit de corps* dedicated to the eradication of leprosy. Surely the membership will give all possible support to any efforts he may initiate directed toward this goal.—O. K. SKINSNES